

And that's why Senator Conrad and I have come up with this idea of allowing process-set policy to drive policy. We have come to the conclusion that everybody who puts policy on the table first ends up getting it shot at by the different interest groups who want to

make progress around here on fundraising usually, but who have some axe to grind, and that putting policy on the table first simply doesn't work in our institution.

That the only way to do this is to create a procedure which is viewed as absolutely fair, absolutely bipartisan, where nobody can game anybody, and where the decision of that process, the Task Force, is viewed by the public as fair, open and bipartisan. And that decision by that Task Force, which will be a decision being made by people who understand the issues and who have skin in the game, so to say, will then be voted up or down by the Congress. Without amendment, the reason being that if you have amendments, everybody can go and hide behind an amendment.

And hopefully, as a result of that, we will make very significant progress on these big issues. And everything is on the table. All the entitlements are on the table, all the tax policy is on the table, with the idea that we would move significantly down the road towards reducing the burden on the next generation, on our children and our children's children. This is all about that, making sure that we pass on to them a viable nation that they can afford.

And so I congratulate the Chairman of the Committee for being so aggressive in promoting this idea. We may disagree on some things like tax policy, but we don't disagree on the need to have a procedure to reach an agreement here, and it has to be done sooner rather than later.

So we look forward to hearing from you, General, again on your thoughts. We know that it's as a result of your efforts and the information that you've been putting out with your tour that the public is getting educated and this is another opportunity to do that. Thank you for being here today.